

BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPERIEUR

Groupement 15

Session 2008

ANGLAIS

Durée : 2 h

- SUJET -

Dès la remise du sujet, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.

L'usage du dictionnaire bilingue est autorisé.

Spécialités :

Agencement de l'environnement
architectural
Aménagement - finition
Bâtiment
Charpente - couverture
Constructions métalliques
Enveloppe du bâtiment
Études et économie de la construction
Géomètre topographe
Systèmes constructifs bois et habitat
Travaux publics

Are Floating Homes the Future of Housing?

With low-lying areas around the world increasingly susceptible to flooding - this at a time when population growth has necessitated the construction of more and more homes - the question of how to balance the need for housing with the dangers of rising water levels has never been more pressing.

In the Netherlands, where half of the country lies below mean sea level and flooding has long been a fact of life, construction and engineering company Dura Vermeer has come up with a novel and, when you think about it, obvious solution to the problem: houses that float. These types of homes offer a good way of dealing with the effects of climate change. Unlike normal houses, they are extremely flexible when it comes to flooding, able to deal with a sea level rise of up to five metres.

The company has developed two variations on the same theme: a floating house which, as the name suggests, sits permanently on the water like a boat; and an amphibious house that stands on dry land but, in the event of floods, is able to rise with the water. Both employ a large hollow concrete cube at their base to provide buoyancy, and are "moored" in pairs to huge steel piles to keep them anchored in one place, the piles enabling them to withstand currents as strong as you would find on the open seas. Water and electricity are brought in through flexible pipes that have been adapted to bend and move with the swell of the water. In every other respect they look and feel like normal homes with split-level accommodation, wooden balconies and clapboard exteriors painted cheery shades of yellow, green and blue.

These houses not only offer protection against floods, but also great quality of living and low environmental impact. These houses are certainly not being touted as an alternative to conventional flood defences such as dykes, levees and river barriers. Nor are they cheap, their starting price of 260,000 euros meaning that, in terms of construction, it is only the world's more affluent nations that will be able to afford them.

CNN.COM
September 2007

TRAVAIL DEMANDÉ

I - COMPRÉHENSION (10 pts)

Rédigez en français un compte rendu du texte en environ 200 mots (plus ou moins 10%).

II - EXPRESSION EN ANGLAIS (10 pts)

Répondez en anglais aux deux questions suivantes :

1. Can you think of other advantages and drawbacks of these floating homes ?
(environ 100 mots, plus ou moins 10%, 5 pts)
2. In which ways may climate change affect the home building industry ?
(environ 100 mots, plus ou moins 10%, 5 pts)